

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 198388 TOSEC 090020  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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S/S-0 LFLEISCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 198388 TOSEC 090020

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILL, MOPS, PEPR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: FIGHTING IN BEIRUT

FOR SAUNDERS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. LATEST SYRIAN SHELLING OF EAST BEIRUT APPARENTLY WAS  
EXTREMELY HEAVY. EQUALLY DISTURBING WAS REPORT THAT  
MARONITES SHELLED WEST BEIRUT TWO DAYS AGO. IF CONTINUED,  
THIS COULD RESULT IN PALESTINIANS GETTING INVOLVED. IN  
ACCORD WITH THRUST OF PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS, YOU SHOULD  
SEIZE AND MAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXAMINE WITH THE SYRIANS  
WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING, THE NATURE OF PROVOCATIONS, THE  
PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS -- IF ANY -- TO BRING ABOUT NEW

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ARRANGEMENTS IN WHICH LEBANESE POLICE AND ARMY UNITS WOULD  
PLAY A ROLE, AND THE SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR REPLACE-  
MENT BY LEBANESE UNITS IN FLASH POINT AREAS. WE RECOGNIZE  
THAT THE SYRIANS WILL BE EXTREMELY TOUCHY IN THE AFTERMATH  
OF THE HOUSE VOTE ELIMINATING THE SYRIAN AID PROGRAM, AND  
LEAVE IT TO YOU AS TO HOW BEST TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN  
OVER THE SEVERITY OF THE BOMBARDMENTS AND HIGH TOLL OF

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, AS WELL AS OUR CONCLUSION THAT SYRIAN REPRESSIVE AND RETALIATORY TACTICS ARE SHARPLY ADDING TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DISTORTIONS ABOUT SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON.

2. TRY TO GET BEST POSSIBLE VIEWS ON SYRIAN INTENTIONS, LIMITS OF THEIR FLEXIBILITY IN ACCEPTING COMPROMISE DIS-ENGAGEMENT FORMULAS, AND WHAT KIND OF QUID PRO QUOS WILL BE SOUGHT. SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROVOCATIONS AND SNIPING. WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST -- DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY -- TO URGE THE MILITIA LEADERS TO END THE PROVOCATIONS AND APPLY RIGID DISCIPLINE ON MILITIA MEMBERS. WE ALSO APPRECIATE AND HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF THE COMPARATIVE SYRIAN RESTRAINT FOLLOWING THE JULY 6 CEASEFIRE UP TO THE OUTBURST IN HADATH. WE KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SYRIAN CASUALTIES AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PROVOCATIONS AND MUCH HARASSMENT.

3. THIS MESSAGE IS TO REITERATE THAT YOU HAVE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE SYRIANS IF BOMBARDMENTS SHOULD RESUME PROTRACTED PATTERN ALONG THE LINE OF JULY 1-6 EPISODE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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